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Approved For Release 2003/09/02 : CIA-RDP80R01731R003500200005-1

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : CHIEF, ICAPS

DATE: 23 November 1948

FROM : SUBJECT: Informal inquiry regarding
Orientation of American travellers

1. All of the following meetings, to follow through on your inquiry, were held on Tuesday, 23 November 1948.

2. I first discussed the ideas with Mr. George Carey, who stated that his organization was interested only in the intelligence needs that might be supplied by travellers abroad and, even then, the requirements were made specific within the intelligence field.

3. Mr. Carey does not support the view that such persons should receive any kind of briefing or indoctrination from the intelligence organization and, furthermore, he would be against the idea of being held responsible to give out any kind of pamphlets or literature which had been formulated by another agency of the government — probably the Department of State.

4. Mr. Ted Babbitt, Assistant Director, Office of Reports and Estimates, concurred in Mr. Carey's viewpoints and added that ORE does nothing to brief such travellers on problems that might come up in connection with their particular mission.

5. after hearing my inquiry, took me to the office of Mr. Tom Begg, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of International Information. In Mr. Begg's office was another man carrying a similar title -- Mr. Bartow Underhill. It was a significant coincidence that Mr. Underhill was in Washington today, since he operates in the New York Information Office of the Department of State.

6. These two gentlemen are working on a system to accomplish exactly what you had in mind. They have held several meetings with individuals and groups and have corralled many ideas with the objective of bringing out little booklets for use of individuals travelling to various sections of the world. They do not believe that one booklet of the kind they have in mind will be sufficient for those travelling to Europe and the Orient. In other words, the different sections of the world will demand different treatment of the material. Secondly, they do not feel that such a booklet should be brought out by the Federal Government, even though the Government will undertake to write and edit all of the material. Hence,

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they are now seeking ways and means to finance the undertaking, and are very confident and optimistic about the possibility of distributing the booklets through the National Association of Travel Agencies. In this way, when a person gets a ticket to travel abroad, he will be given the appropriate booklet or booklets.

7. Though the National Association of Travel Agencies has outlets all over the nation, it does not have the financial resources to launch this program. For example, it is anticipated that in the next six-month period, over 200,000 individuals will travel from this country to Europe alone. Hence, Messrs. Begg and Underhill are attempting to tap other resources to get the funds to launch this endeavor.

8. They gave me a copy of the booklet brought out by the Economic Co-operation Administration, which is a good example of some work that had been done in this direction by the Federal Government itself.



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MEMBER, ICAPS

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